

General Services Administration

503.1004

principal officer, director, owner or co-owner; and

(3) Presumes receipt if no return receipt is received within 10 calendar days after mailing the notice.

(b) The contractor has 30 calendar days to exercise its rights under FAR 3.204(b), unless the Senior Procurement Executive, or designee, grants an extension.

(c) If there is a dispute of fact material to making a determination, the Senior Procurement Executive, or designee, may refer the matter to an agency fact-finding official, designated by the Suspension and Debarment Official, in accordance with GSAR 509.403. Referrals for fact-finding are not made in cases arising from a conviction or indictment as defined in FAR 9.403. If a referral is made, the fact-finding official takes all the following actions:

(1) Gives the contractor an opportunity to dispute material facts relating to the determinations under FAR 3.204(a)(1) and (2);

(2) Conducts proceedings under rules consistent with FAR 3.204(b);

(3) Schedules a hearing within 20 calendar days of receipt of the referral. The contractor or GSA may request an extension for good cause; and

(4) Delivers to the Senior Procurement Executive, or designee, written findings of fact (together with a transcription of the proceedings, if made) within 20 calendar days after the hearing record closes. The findings must resolve any material disputes of fact by a preponderance of the evidence.

(d) The Senior Procurement Executive, or designee, may reject the findings of the fact-finding official only if the findings are clearly erroneous or arbitrary and capricious.

(e) In cases arising from conviction or indictment, or in which there are no disputes of material fact, the Senior Procurement Executive, or designee, conducts the hearing required by FAR 3.204(b).

(f) If the Gratuities clause was violated, the contractor may present evidence of mitigating factors to the Senior Procurement Executive, or designee, in accordance with FAR 3.204(b) either orally or in writing, consistent with a schedule the Senior Procurement Executive, or designee, estab-

lishes. The Senior Procurement Executive, or designee, exercises the Government's rights under FAR 3.204(c) only after considering mitigating factors.

[64 FR 37204, July 9, 1999, as amended at 74 FR 51511, Oct. 7, 2009]

Subpart 503.4—Contingent Fees

Subpart 503.5—Other Improper Business Practices

503.570 Advertising.

503.570-1 Policy.

GSA policy precludes contractors from making references to GSA contracts in commercial advertising in a manner that states or implies the Government approves or endorses the product or service or considers it superior to other products or services. The intent of this policy is to prevent the appearance of Government bias toward any product or service.

[64 FR 37204, July 9, 1999, as amended at 74 FR 51511, Oct. 7, 2009]

503.570-2 Contract clause.

Insert the clause at 552.203-71, Restriction on Advertising, in solicitations and contracts, including acquisitions of leasehold interests in real property, if the contract amount is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.

Subpart 503.7—Voiding and Rescinding Contracts

503.703 Authority.

Pursuant to FAR 3.703 and 3.705(b), the authority to void or rescind contracts resides with the Senior Procurement Executive.

[74 FR 51512, Oct. 7, 2009]

Subpart 503.10—Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct

503.1004 Contract clauses.

(a) The FAR threshold for the clause at 52.203-14, Display of Hotline Poster(s), is \$5,000,000. However, GSA has exercised the authority provided at FAR 3.1004(b)(1)(i) to establish a lower threshold, \$1,000,000, for inclusion of